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Challenge

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CHALLENGE!

It is recognized throughout the Navy that many officers may not have the opportunity to attend a Naval War College resident course because of career requirements or high priority operational assignments. Currently, a burgeoning demand for professional excellence makes this advanced education essential.

To meet this challenge, the Naval War College has inaugurated, on a pilot basis, the Naval Command and Staff Interim Course. The basic goal of the course is to bridge the educational gap at the Naval Command and Staff level until 1980, when the number of officers assigned to the resident School of Naval Command and Staff is programmed to be increased to 500 by the Secretary of the Navy. If the pilot program proves to be successful, I hope subsequently to establish this course on a semipermanent basis in order to extend the

educational facilities of the Naval War College to a wider range of selected midcareer officers.

The pilot course, which commenced 14 August, is offered to a limited number of specially chosen officers. It consists of four weeks in residence at the Naval War College supplemented by enrollment in three correspondence courses. It is designed to encompass the core curriculum of the resident School of Naval Command and Staff without the attendant loss in time from other, more demanding duties.

During the resident portion of the course, the student will study and apply the Military Planning Process; prepare a staff study; become acquainted with various areas of naval warfare; participate in a portion of the Fundamentals of Strategy Study with the students of the resident course; be counseled on the conduct

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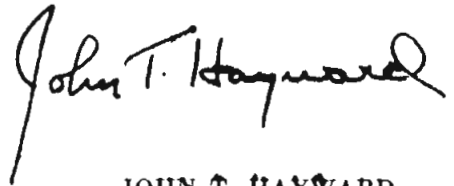
of the correspondence phase of the pilot course; and become familiar with the Naval War College and its procedures and techniques of instruction.

Upon completion of the period in residence, the student will complete three Naval War College correspondence courses: *Naval Operational Planning, National and International Security Organization, and Command Logistics*. Based on the past performance of correspondent students, it is expected that the motivated officer will complete these courses within 18 months following the period in residence. This conclusion is predicated upon an approximate study requirement of seven hours per week.

The pilot course, and the follow-on Naval Command and Staff Interim Course, is designed to achieve several

educational goals. First, as stated previously, it will offer a naval command and staff level of education to a larger number of officers until such time as increased numbers of officers can be assigned to the resident course. Second, it will improve the student's professional competence and should enhance his opportunities for promotion. Third, it will provide a solid foundation to support the student if he is selected for a senior course at an advanced military educational institution. Finally, it will serve to increase the educational level in the officer corps of the naval service as a whole.

The achievement of these goals is dependent upon the performance of the two key functionaries: the individual student and the Naval War College. If both of them accept the challenge, the goals will be met. I am convinced that this will come to pass.



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